

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
12 April 2001 (12.04.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 01/25402 A1**(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C12N 5/06,  
A61K 9/00, A61P 19/02, 19/04, G01N 33/53(74) Agents: BIRD, William, E. et al.; Bird Goën & Co, Vil-  
voordsebaan 92, B-3020 Winksele (BE).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/BE00/00120

(22) International Filing Date: 6 October 2000 (06.10.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: 06 Apr 02/31 mo7  
99203274.8 6 October 1999 (06.10.1999) EP  
99203290.4 7 October 1999 (07.10.1999) EP(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):  
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(BE).(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ,  
DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR,  
HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR,  
LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ,  
NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM,  
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,  
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian  
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European  
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,  
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG,  
CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).**Published:**

- With international search report.
- Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the  
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of  
amendments.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ISOLATION OF PRECURSOR CELLS AND THEIR USE FOR TISSUE REPAIR

(57) Abstract: Cartilage-derived morphogenetic protein CDMP-1 or a transforming growth factor  $\beta$  having at least 80 % homology with CDMP-1, or a factor co-expressed and/or co-detectable therewith, is used as a marker of skeletal precursor cells from any part of a mammalian body.

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